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25 April 1978

Hearings

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Intelligence Charter Legislation Hearings

1. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) today held its fourth public hearing on the intelligence charter legislation, S. 2525. Senators Walter Huddleston (D., Ky.) and Charles Mathias (R., Md.), and several staff members, were present for the Committee. Present on behalf of the Director of Central Intelligence were

2. Neither Senator Huddleston nor Senator Mathias made any substantive opening remarks. Each of the three witnesses read into the record a prepared statement. Mr. Karamessines, in his prepared statement, discussed a large number of points, some of the more interesting of which were: the legislation has too many reporting procedures and requirements; the legislation should provide sanctions for the unauthorized disclosure of intelligence sources and methods; the legislation should specifically address the responsibility of Government agencies to provide cover for intelligence officers; requiring by statute that intelligence liaison arrangements must be reported to Congress is inappropriate and would have a detrimental affect on such relationships; and if the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) is separated from heading the CIA, then the Agency at least should, by the terms of the statute, be headed by a separate Director rather than the Deputy or an Assistant DNI. In his remarks, Mr. Scoville stressed that the DNI should not be separated from heading the CIA; the legislation is crowded with too many obligatory reporting requirements; the legislation should "eliminate covert political action altogether"; and clandestine operational activities and human collection "should by and large be diminished, if not eliminated." In his remarks, Mr. Scoville also expressed the view that the DNI must remain as head of the CIA in order to retain a strong and independent intelligence collection and analysis capability. Mr. Scoville also endorsed the notion that not only should the CIA not be responsible for "special activities," but that the U.S. Government should in fact no longer be authorized to conduct any special activities.

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